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THE

INTERIM

A REPORT OF INTERIM ACTIVITY . . . MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . . HELENA

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

OCTOBER 1980

VOL. II, NO. 16

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PLC
OFFICE SPACE
CHANGES FOR
SESSION
DISCUSSED
SEPTEMBER 13

The Legislative Council met September 13. The plans for converting rooms in the East end of the first floor of the Capitol to Legislative committee rooms were discussed in relation to the resulting shortage of space for staff. It was agreed that Council-occupied Rooms 102 and 114 could be converted to committee rooms and that the Council accounting office could move to 4th floor (probably 428A) for the duration of the session.

PUBLIC COPY
MACHINE TO
BE PROVIDED

Dave Lewis, Director of the Department of Administration, in answer to a request, said the department would arrange to have a coin operated copy machine available in the Capitol for public use during the Legislative session.

FUNDS
REVERTED

The Council was given a year-end financial report that showed a \$267,898.60 reversion to the General Fund.

CAUCUSES
SET

The prospective deans of the 47th Legislature, Senators Dave Manning and Jean Turnage and Representatives Francis Bardanouve and Carl Smith, have agreed to call the pre-session caucus for November 21 and 22. All caucuses will be held at the Colonial Inn in Helena. At a pre-caucus orientation on Friday the 21st at 9:00 a.m., Senator Stan Stephens and Representative Ann Mary Dussault, majority leaders of the 46th session, will present the Legislative Improvement Committee's recommendations for rule changes.

The four caucuses are scheduled to begin immediately after that presentation, and the first item on the caucus agenda will be the election of officers. The House minority party and corresponding Senate party will meet in the Lewis & Clark Rooms at the Colonial. The House majority party and corresponding Senate party will meet in the Capitol Club and Colonial Rooms. Joint orientation meetings will be held in the Legislative-Judicial Rooms.

Orientation scheduled for Saturday, November 22, will include information on payroll, committee responsibilities and preferences, bill request procedures, and the like.

ANNEXATION

FINAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 25 The Study Committee on Annexation met on September 25, 1980, in Room 104 of the State Capitol to discuss draft legislation which was drawn up from discussion proposals considered at previous meetings. Following discussion and some amendments, all eight bills were accepted for recommendation to the 1981 session of the Legislature.

BILLS RECOMMENDED LC 0115 - Eliminating the distinction between rights of resident and nonresident freeholders.

LC 0116 - Relating to provision of services by municipalities to newly annexed areas.

LC 0117 - Deleting certain restrictions on annexation of wholly surrounded land and prohibiting strip annexation.

LC 0118 - Providing for annexation of high density land under certain conditions.

LC 0119 - Deleting restrictions on annexation of land used for industrial, manufacturing, and other purposes.

LC 0120 - Providing for joint hearings and coordination of requirements for annexation whenever possible.

LC 0121 - Allowing municipalities to select the annexation procedure most appropriate to each annexation situation.

LC 0122 - Prescribing conditions under which land is presumed to be annexed and may be so recorded.

ENERGY FORECASTING

FINAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 17 The Study Committee on Energy Forecasting met on September 17, 1980, to discuss legislation to be submitted to the 1981 session of the Legislature.

BILL RECOMMENDED The Committee recommended a bill that would amend the state's energy supply emergency powers to more fully enable the state to monitor energy supplies and demands. The bill provides for industry generated reports on

petroleum supplies and consumption and provide a protection of the confidentiality of much of the information in the reports. There were a number of amendments made to the discussion draft.

PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20

The Interim Study Committee on Public Retirement Systems met in Helena on September 20, 1980, to modify and refine a proposed cost-of-living adjustment for public pension plans. During this working session, the Committee directed the staff to draft legislation for six retirement systems providing an automatic benefit increase based on a percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index applied to a portion of active employees' salary. The legislation will also include a provision deferring the benefit increase until three years after retirement, a minimum benefit based on social security coverage, and provisions for funding the increase such as employer and employee contributions and supplemental sources. A November meeting will be scheduled to discuss this draft legislation.

FINAL MEETING
IN NOVEMBER

LEGISLATIVE IMPROVEMENT

MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12

The Legislative Improvement Committee met September 12. In addition to the recommendations previously adopted (reported in November 1979 and March 1980 Interim), the Committee voted to:

RECOMMENDATIONS
ADOPTED

1. Amend the Joint Rules to provide that a copy of all legislative standing committee minutes be furnished the Law Library, as well as to the Historical Society and Legislative Council, and that copies no longer be furnished to majority and minority leaders.
2. Introduce a resolution in the 1981 Legislature calling for a study of salaries of staff of permanent legislative committees, in order to adopt an equitable salary schedule for all legislative employees (who are not now on the state pay plan).
3. Amend the Joint Rules to provide that any bill passed unanimously by a committee would automatically be put on the Consent Calendar unless a majority of the committee voted that it not be put on the Consent Calendar.
4. Recommend that the floor sessions of the 1981 Legislature be held in early morning rather than at 4:00 p.m. as in 1979.

5. Introduce a bill to change the automatic effective date of nonmoney bills from July 1 to January 1 following a Legislative session.
6. Recommend that the 1981 Legislature work six days a week until transmittal (45th day), not work on Sundays or holidays, and work five days a week after the transmittal deadline. This would result in the 90th Legislative day falling on April 30.
7. Ask Legislative Council staff to suggest a rule or statutory provision instructing agencies how to "Report to the Legislature" when so required. At the present time there are no guidelines concerning when, where, to whom, or how to so report.
8. Inform new legislative leadership that all votes on floor amendments to bills, whether the amendment passes or not, are to be recorded and printed in the Journal. (It was pointed out to the Committee that in the past the Journal has not recorded either a proposed amendment or the vote thereon if the amendment failed.)
9. Introduce legislation to provide that all legislative standing committees have oversight powers in their respective areas of concern similar to that of the Revenue Oversight Committee, and that all interim studies be conducted by subcommittees of the standing committees. Assignment of studies and setting funding priorities for the committees would continue to be functions of the Legislative Council.

MEETING
SCHEDULED
NOVEMBER 8

The next meeting will be held November 8, 1980, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 139. A draft of the Committee's proposed recommendations to the caucus will be reviewed and discussed.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

FINAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12

The Select Committee on Indian Affairs held its final meeting on September 12, 1980. After considering the recommendations made by participants at the reservation subcommittee hearings, the Committee put into final form the two bills it has been considering: a bill to authorize the state to enter into cooperative agreements with Indian tribes; and a bill to create a permanent legislative Committee on Indian Affairs.

In its review of the reservation hearings, the Committee concluded that, with only a few exceptions, there was general support for the two bills from the Indian and non-Indian communities near the reservations.

MONTANA SALARY COMMISSION

PRELIMINARY
DECISIONS
MADE
SEPTEMBER 12

After hearing Montana's elected officials or their representatives at the September 12 meeting, the Salary Commission scheduled a final session on Monday, November 3, to formulate its recommendation to the 47th Legislature.

FINAL RECOM-
MENDATIONS
NOVEMBER 3

Commission members agree that the governor should be the highest paid employee of the state, with other executive department officials drawing a predetermined percentage of the governor's pay. Supreme Court justices deserve compensation equal to that of federal district judges, Commission members felt. The Commission is studying proposals for legislators' pay now tied to the state's classification plan.

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

MEETING

The Legislative Audit Committee will meet October 27, 1980, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 104 of the State Capitol.

REPORTS

The Committee will receive and review the financial/compliance audit reports on the Butte Vocational-Technical Center, Swan River Youth Forest Camp, Center for the Aged, and the Treasury Division.

REPORTS
AVAILABLE

Copies of all reports are available from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Room 135, State Capitol, telephone 449-3122.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16

The Environmental Quality Council met Tuesday, September 16, in the State Capitol.

SMALL SCALE
HYDRO

Representatives of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) presented the Small Scale Hydroelectric Policy Report. Selected issues were discussed and subsequently proposed for draft legislation.

ENVIRONMENTAL
INDICATORS

The Council voted to suspend work on the Environmental Indicators and suggested supporting any efforts by the executive branch to secure the funding to complete the project.

AIR QUALITY

The staff, as requested at the July meeting, presented a report on the adequacy of considerations of the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences' proposed ambient air standards. The Council requested the Department of health to respond to the EQC report.

HJR 60
RECOMMENDA-
TIONS MADE

The HJR 60 report was presented and accepted by the Council. The findings and final recommendations of HJR 60 will be submitted to the Legislative Council for bill drafting.

NOVEMBER 7
MEETING SET

The next Environmental Quality Council meeting was set for Friday, November 7.

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

S7.1.11.11

FRIDAY

THURSDAY

WEDNESDAY

TUESDAY

MONDAY

SUNDAY

			1	2	3	4 COAL TAX OVERSIGHT RM. 104 9:00 am
5	6 REAPPORTION- MENT RM. 139 9:00 am	7	8 CAPITOL BUILDING & PLANNING 10:00 am RM 139	9	16	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE RM 104	28	29	30	31	

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

							1
2	3 SALARY COMMISSION RM 139 9:00 am	4	5	6	7 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RM 139 9:00 am	8 LEGISLATIVE IMPROVEMENT RM 139 9:00 am	
9	10	11	12	13 LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMM. RM 104	14 LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMM. RM 104	15 LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMM. RM 104	
16	17	18	19	20	21 PRESSESSION CAUCUS COLONIAL INN	22 REVENUE OVERSIGHT RM 104 PRESSESSION CAUCUS COLONIAL INN	
23	24 LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE RM 104	25	26	27	28	29	
	30						

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